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honest, and appears to have no destructive purpose. Of course, readers will not accept his conclusions without hesitation, and not many will look as calmly as he upon his results. Nevertheless it is worth while to see in a book like this how the Hebrew Scriptures appear to one regarding them from a mere literary standpoint. It is possible that our reverence magnifies their literary merit. One thing is certain, — that most of those who glorify the words of the sacred volume, and compare it with heathen literatures to the disadvantage of the latter, have as little acquaintance with the books that they praise as the books that they depreciate. Only a small part of the Old Testament is habitually read in Christian churches or in Christian homes; and no printing-house publishes more that is systematically skipped and neglected than the printing-house of the Bible Society. The proposition to publish an expurgated edition or an abridgment of the Bible has almost a blasphemous sound; but does not every father of a family practically abridge and expurgate the volume as it is used in his house? Literary criticism of the Scripture may lead to a more just estimate of its worth and its service in forming the taste as well as the spiritual life of men and women to-day.

8. — *Abriss der deutschen Literaturgeschichte*. Von DR. E. P. EVANS, Professor der neueren Sprachen und Literatur an der Universität von Michigan. New York: Leypoldt and Holt. 1869. 12mo. pp. 240.

THIS "Abridgment of German Literary History," though the work of an American by birth and lineage, is in no sense an English work translated into the German tongue. The idiom is as purely Teutonic as if it had been written in Germany by a child of the soil. The only thing in the volume that betrays the nationality of the author is a directness and vigor of expression, which is rather English than German. It might well come from a German professor who had familiarized himself with the style and thought of the best English writers, and had learned to prefer short, crisp sentences to the involved periods which are tolerated in German.

This work was probably intended — as it will certainly be widely used — as a text-book for German classes in colleges and high-schools. Nowhere else can so much information concerning German literature be found in a form so condensed and in a style so simple. There are histories enough of German literature, and Professor Evans gives in his Introduction a catalogue of the best; but these are mostly too

bulky for convenient use. A "handy book" has been wanted, which should avoid redundant details, and give in small compass all that it is important to know. Such a work is this "Abriss." Into its 240 small pages is compressed the substance of a score of thick octavos. Nothing of moment in the development of the literature is omitted, and all the important names, both in earlier and later times, are to be found in their proper place. An admirable plan has been most conscientiously and carefully executed.

The book is strictly a history of "literature." Except in the earlier ages, where all writings had more or less of a theological character, it takes no notice of merely scientific or theological writers. It deals with poets, novelists, dramatists, essayists, literary critics, satirists; with historians and philosophers only on their literary side. Luther's Table-Talk, but not his Theses, brings him into this volume. Hardly one of the noted theologians of the present century is even mentioned.

Professor Evans adopts a threefold division of German literary history, — making the first period extend from the earliest time to the end of the twelfth century; the second, from the end of the twelfth to the second half of the seventeenth century; and the third, from that time to our own day. These chief periods are in turn divided into subordinate periods, which again are arranged by threes. Good reasons, not of a mystical kind, are given for this threefold division. The three subordinate periods of the first division are characterized respectively as the German Gothic, the period of migrations; the old High-German, covering more than five centuries, — from the sixth to the eleventh; and finally the twelfth century, which had a literature of its own. Those who have imagined that German literature is comparatively a modern growth, and that before Klopstock and Lessing there was no special literary activity, will be surprised to see how much can be found even in the earlier centuries.

The three subordinate periods of the second division are, first, the thirteenth century, the time of the "Middle High-German"; second, the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries; and third, the time of the New High-German in the sixteenth and far into the seventeenth century. The German literature of this period is quite as rich as the literature of the same period of France and England. The simple outline of it which Professor Evans gives fills nearly half his volume, and contains many of his best critical notices. This was the period of the Nibelungenlied, of the Minnesänger and Meistersänger, of the popular preachers, of the Mystics and of the Reformers. An unexpected company of famous men show themselves in these ages of chivalry, representing the popular feeling of the time far more truly than the aristocratic singers and

play-writers of the French and Spanish courts. The sketch of this period, rapid as it necessarily is, is yet quite as interesting as the account of the better known period of the later German literature. The indebtedness of modern German writers to the writers of this period is made evident.

The second half of the volume is devoted to an account of the third general division, in which there are also three subordinate periods. The richness of the literature of this time, of course, makes it impossible to dwell at length upon any single name. Often a writer of distinction must be barely mentioned, or dismissed with a single line or a single sentence. Even Goethe and Schiller can only have their half-dozen pages in a survey of so large a field. Professor Evans succeeds, however, by a few masterly touches, in giving what is most characteristic of each of the great writers. He has also rescued some authors from undeserved neglect, — notably Karl Immermann, whom he ranks with the very foremost of poets for beauty of style and elevation of thought. It is impossible, he says, to overestimate the indebtedness of the German poetry of to-day to this remarkable writer. "In epic poetry he stands above Schiller; as a philosophic poet he surpasses Goethe, although he lacks the idealistic pathos of the first, and the lyric softness of the second. He wrote ballads very sweetly, which unfortunately are not much known, since no complete edition of his works has yet been published. As a dramatic writer likewise he was very fruitful. He came into literature so young, that the pieces of his youth showed a dazzling color borrowed from romance; but the study of Goethe and Schiller brought him off soon from this false tendency."

To one feature of the book some may take exception. It is a continuous narrative, and is not broken up into separate chapters. The author has preferred to economize space, and to mark the transitions from one period to another, and from one subject to another, by indications upon the margin of the page, an elaborate and carefully arranged table of contents, and a very full index, making it easy to find the place of any writer or the treatment of any theme. For a college text-book this method is perhaps preferable, though it is not so pleasant to the eye. The volume, however, is a great deal more than a college text-book. It is a valuable manual for any student of German, even if he have in his library the larger works from which this is digested. To those who have no access to larger works it will be invaluable. As one of the very few books written by American scholars in the German language, it is a curiosity. We have reason to believe that it is only an *avant-courier* of a full critical history of German literature in the English tongue, which is one of our chief literary needs. No man in the country

is more competent to prepare such a work than Professor Evans. It will be creditable to American scholarship if one of our countrymen can do for the literature of Germany what Gervinus and Taine have done for the literature of England.

9. — *Publications of the Prince Society. The Andros Tracts.* Boston: Prince Society. Vols. I. and II. 4to. pp. liv., 215; xxiv., 346.

THE Revolution of 1689 delivered New England from a tyranny much more oppressive than that from which she was rescued ninety years later, in the reign of King George the Third. Her municipal and legislative institutions, almost coeval with the settlements, had been abolished. Laws were made, taxes levied, courts of justice constituted, judicial, executive, and military officers appointed, by functionaries of the king of England. The swarm of blood-suckers whom Governor Andros collected about him from England and New York, — Randolph, West, Palmer, Graham, Foxcroft, Sherlock, — sold justice, or injustice, at excessive rates. The treacherous Dudley lent to the roguery the support of his great talents and intimate local knowledge. Land-titles as old as the Colony were pronounced void, and the holders were ousted, or required to protect themselves by buying new patents of the Governor. Opposition in the towns was punished by heavy fines imposed on the agitators, or by harsher measures, as in the case of the minister of Plymouth, brought to Boston while suffering from a fit of the gout, and kept standing before his questioners till it seemed as if he would die. The miseries of the local administration were not all that troubled the people. Not unreasonably, they feared that King James would establish Popery in England; and if in England, why not in Massachusetts Bay?

Who were the plotters, and what the consultations, in Boston in the winter of 1688 and 1689, will never be fully known. As early as September, Charles Morton (formerly teacher, in England, of Defoe) preached in Charlestown such a sermon as would have brought him to trial for treason, had not the prosecuting officer been of the opinion that "there were not honest men in Middlesex to make a jury to serve their turn." In November the Prince of Orange landed in England, but he might as well have landed in the moon for any intelligence the Bostonians could have had of his movements for months afterwards, as voyages were then made. On the 4th of April came news from the West Indies of his being on English ground. What the issue of the adventure would be, was of course all uncertain; for, weeks later, the Prince was